

EXHIBIT 1

DATE 2-19-07

SB 145 33

For the record I am Ann Tuss from Great Falls, MT I am the Coordinator of The Polio Survivors of Central MT.

I am a Polio Survivor. I contacted Polio in 1952 at the age of 6 months. The Vaccine was tested in 1955. Vaccine was not available till I was in 2nd grade.

Our Support group represents all of the Montana Polio Survivors. Great Falls Post-Polio group came into existence with the help of Easter Seals in 1987. There were many support groups in the Montana Cities. To date, we are the only one left in Montana. In April of 2001 our members received a letter from Easter Seals stating that they could no longer support our Support Group meeting, we decided and felt the need and wanted to keep our group going, and we became The Polio Survivors of Central Montana.

Our 1st goal as a support group is to get every Child Immunized! We cannot stress strongly enough how important it is for parents to get their children immunized and to educate the public and the Medical World on Polio and the late effects of Polio (Post-Polio Syndrome). We need to assure other Polio Survivors and their families that they are not alone as they note the changing of their bodies and the loss of their body function. Post Polio Syndrome can not be cured.

Our 2nd goal as a support group is to get a Day and/or Month Proclamation of Polio Awareness for Montana. So we can join sixteen other states that have their proclamation declaring The Year of Polio Awareness

We urge the passage of this joint Resolution because as Citizens who have dealt with Polio and a suffering with the late effects of Polio we understand that there is a critical need for a Study on Polio.

We look forward to getting the eradication of polio, But because of the WAR in Certain parts of the world & the fear of Vaccine: some countries continue to have out breaks of Polio and these out breaks are just a plane ride away from us.

We would like to thank Quality Life Concepts of Great Falls and North Central Independent Living Services for helping our support group in existence.

Thank you Rep Bill Thomas for Supporting this Polio Study Bill.

My name is Ron Austad. I am a 65 year old survivor of Polio. I was diagnosed in 1948 during an epidemic in Salt Lake City, Utah. I recall the onset was extremely painful. I was also suffering from double pneumonia so I was placed in isolation. The room was small, located in a one story annex of the General Hospital. This building had been turned into an impromptu polio ward. I remember the halls were lined with occupied iron lungs. Over the years, I have managed to block from memory most of the sounds, smells and fears I experienced during the weeks I spent there. More months were spent at home in bed while my mother treated me with hot pack therapy. As I recovered, the only effects seemed to be slight deformities in both feet, a weakness in my leg and back muscles and myopic vision. As I grew older, I grew stronger. I played hard at sports and took on tough jobs. In my forties, I began to notice a weakness in my legs and back. After some injuries to a leg and to my back the weakness and pain became more acute. Physical therapy did not seem to help. If anything it seemed to make the condition worse. By the time I was 53 I walked with a cane. It wasn't long before I required Canadian crutches. My doctor advised me to go to polio clinic in Billings that had recently started treating postpolio sequelae patients. There I was run through a series of tests and was diagnosed to have advanced postpolio sequelae. I was advised to return to Great Falls and request disability retirement from my company. How could this be? I had never heard of postpolio. The doctors in Great Falls had prescribed a level of physical therapy that was diametrically opposed to the type of treatment I required. In Sept. 1997 I finally retired from a job I had enjoyed doing for twenty years. My wife and I now own a small family restaurant in Great Falls. I am able to get around with a walker or wheelchair.

Regarding House Joint resolution number 33, I highly favor any action that would build awareness as to the importance of the polio vaccine and educating the medical community about the

Unique Treatment required by some patients with postpolio sequelae.

Some may argue that this condition is so rare or archaic that it's really not worth the bother. In my immediate family I have a younger sister that also has postpolio. I have a mother in law that had polio as a child and is now showing familiar signs that she may have it too.

It's curious how the handicap parking signs keep multiplying in urban parking lots, and still there aren't enough of them.

Many people find themselves losing mobility prematurely in their later years. Many of these some people experienced flu like symptoms during the middle of the twentieth century. Many of them were mis-diagnosed, like my sister.

Ran Christas

Allen L. Brown
214 4th Ave. SE
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Re: Polio Study Bill HJ33

I was born in North Dakota in 1943, at the age of four (4) I was diagnosed with Polio, which affected my legs. My Doctor flew me to a larger hospital for treatment. I stayed in the hospital for four months, after I returned home I was to stay in bed for six months. My family was quarantined for a period of time, which kept my brothers and sister out of school. We were poor so my aunt bought me a wagon and a tricycle with which I could get exercise and a lot of it. I was left with only a slight limp and was able to play basketball through school. I served three years in the military and worked until I started having a lot of problems in 1989. I have since had both hips replaced and that has helped my mobility.

My wife and I have been going to Post Polio meetings around the state since the mid-eighties. Easter Seals soon began sponsoring Post Polio groups through out the country. In 2001 Easter Seals stopped their sponsorship of the groups in Montana, ironically they still claim in their donation requests that they still support Post Polio. When our group was notified by Easter Seals that they were not going to support our group any longer, we decided we would do it ourselves. We get assistance from North Central Independent Living Services and Quality Life Concepts.

One of the biggest problems facing Polio survivors is finding a doctor with knowledge of Polio and/or Post Polio Sequelae. Today's doctors receive only three or four hours of schooling on Polio and Post-Polio Sequelae and their treatments.

It is important to educate both the medical communities and the public on getting immunized against Polio, there are more cases of polio in the United States and the public needs to know that Polio has not been eradicated in the world. Polio survivors also need education to help themselves live with the problems they may develop over time. Most Polio survivors are type A personalities and have a difficult time downsizing their life.

Some good reference books on the late effects of Poliomyelitis are:
The Late Effects of Poliomyelitis (for Physicians and Survivors) by Frederick M. Maynard, MD and Joan L. Headley, MS.

The Polio Paradox by Richard L. Bruno, H.D., Ph.D.
Managing Post-Polio (A guide to living well with Post-Polio Syndrome) edited by Lauro S. Halstead, M.D.

Postpolio Syndrome by Julie K. Silver, MD and Anne C. Gawne, MD
On the Internet Post-Polio Health International at www.post-polio.org

I feel passage of this bill is important, as is a Proclamation for Polio Awareness Month.

Respectfully yours.

Allen L. Brown

My name is Mary McClain Holskey, I was born in 1942 and from the time I understood what Polio meant, I was terrified of getting it. Every year we would hear about Polio outbreaks and the terrible devastating affects it had on the people it struck... child and adult. Some summers we heard that cities closed the swimming pools because of Polio sweeping through their town. In school we collected dimes to give to the March of Dimes to help the victims.

In 1953 when I was 10½ I got quite sick in the summer... I ached and hurt all over but fortunately, that was all. For some reason I felt that if I told my parents how badly I really felt, they would take me to the Dr. and he would put me in the hospital. I did not want to be away from my family because I was scared. A little girl who was one year ahead of me, in our little school, had gone to the hospital a year or so before this and had died there. So I would force myself to get dressed in the mornings and then I would go out to the hayfield and lay down in the timothy, which was high and no one knew I was there. I was an active child and ran the ranch home area from top to bottom, so it was not unusual to not see me for hours. I managed to get by with it and after a couple of weeks began to feel better.

It was a couple of years later that our family Dr. told us that I had had Polio. My right side is smaller; shoulder, ribs and hip. He also told us that there were three types of Polio so I needed to be vaccinated for all three to insure that I did not get another type... I was only immune to the type that I had been afflicted with.

I was very fortunate as I did not have any other affects from the Polio other than the smaller right side all my young adult life. I married, raised four children and kept up the usual busy life of a home Mom. I loved to walk to relax and for many years walked four miles a day.

My sister heard about this condition called Post Polio and mentioned it to me. I told her to not worry because I was not going to get that! Then when I was pushing fifty I began to notice an increasing weakness in my right hip and leg. I could no longer walk other than my daily activities and found stairs took great effort. After I stopped the extra walking, I gradually gained strength and it is a wonderful blessing of being able to go about life very normally at the age of 63... but if I 'over do' I immediately feel the weakness increasing again. Because I knew the symptoms, I recognized what was going on quickly and was able to do what was needed to help me regain some strength. What the future holds, time will tell but I would love to see this generation spared any possibility of being afflicted with such an awful disease.

Thank you for your help and for being interested in getting all children vaccinated, as we are. No one should have to worry about this dreadful disease when the answer is here and available.

18 February 2007

Nerve damage. Unbearable breath-taking pain. Weakness. These are only a few of the end damage caused by Polio. I am a Polio survivor. Having had this deadly disease, it is very important that Montana has Polio Awareness. When individuals get vaccinated, the disease is almost always prevented. With the diseases ability to mutate and become stronger, we as a whole need to prevent the outbreak as the disease will become rampant and even harder to prevent. Individuals with who withheld the vaccine could be compared to those that use antibiotics with no necessary need. Polio isn't one that when beat, you never have symptoms again. This is a disease that is life changing. You battle with it when you are young as well as when you enter the elder ages. This disease leaves one, weak, with breathing problems, nerve damage, muscle weakness that often is debilitating, let alone the bowel and bladder weakness. Ignorance is going to prevail if we do not give the opportunity to have the knowledge. The Montana Polio Awareness Act needs to be passed and enforced, for our future leaders of America giving them a fighting chance. Gerry Davidson

Polio paper

Please pass the Bill for Children "Every Child by Two" - This is a very important vaccine even though it isn't talked about anymore.

In 1955, I was 32 years old, the Father of 2 young children, ages 1 and 5, and a wife. I had just been transferred

to Butte, Montana from Missoula, when after a Duck Hunting Trip I became very feverish and sick. Not knowing or being established

with a Family Doctor yet (we had a Pediatrician for the children) I found myself looking for a doctor to help me. After a bad

diagnosis of severe Mumps which he said "went down" on me after I couldn't walk - we found a good Diagnostic Physician,

who after ten minutes in his office I was sent to the Hospital - where I was isolated - and was told I had Polio - I was devastated!

Our Pediatrician was notified and within an hour or so, the children and my wife were inoculated with Gamma Goblin--He also

ordered an extra shot for his daughter, who was in the same kindergarden room as my daughter. When the mass Sugar Cube

vaccine was given out my wife and children got it. After many months of Physical Therapy and wearing a drop foot brace and

crutches I am a SURVIVOR! However have been diagnosed with Post Polio Syndrome. To be able to save children from this

dreaded disease and all the pain -- I URGE you to insist the vaccine be mandatory for "EVERY CHILD BY TWO"

Walt O'Fallon

Age 83

Great Falls, Montana

My name is Kathy and I was sickened with polio in November, 1952 -- a month before my 2nd birthday; I'm now 57. Although inflicted with this disease throughout my entire body, only God knows why my legs were all that remained crippled. The Shriner's Hospital for Crippled Children in Spokane, WA became my second home for the next 14 years where I spent months at a time wearing full-length leg casts, pins in my feet, surgeries, therapy, whirlpool baths and gradually learning how to walk all over again with the use of crutches and braces. I certainly was never alone! The hospital wards were full of polio stricken children struggling to survive as normal as possible.

Over the last few years here in Glasgow, MT, the community where I was born, and reside today, has come a long way to assist the handicap; not just polio victims. Designated handicap parking is now available, wheelchair curbs enhance the sidewalk corners, ramps are more accessible, and schools, churches, businesses, etc., are more handicap friendly. Strides for sure to those of us with deep appreciation for anything to help make our lives easier to cope.

On the not-so-bright side of things, it is my belief that our local hospital does not employ staff knowledgeable of polio, let alone postpolio sequelae. Whenever I receive outside information pertaining to my handicap, I send data to the hospital and ask that it be maintained in my medical file. Because we are a rural community, many of us sometimes travel 300 miles (1 way) to seek a second opinion or to receive extensive medical assistance. Therefore, I commend the efforts of those individuals within the state of Montana requesting an interim study of issues related to polio and postpolio sequelae in Montana, their impacts in Montana, and ways to address polio-related issues to improve the long-term health of Montanans. If medical staff aren't educated regarding the often disabling symptoms of the disease which can occur up to 35 years after the poliovirus attack, how can we as "polio survivors" ever feel confident and safe under the care of medical professionals. For many of us, polio has been our entire lifestyle. The more the disease is addressed by the medical professionals, with knowledge and education of the "then and now" effects, the more we "polio survivors" can rest assured that our future medical needs are being properly addressed.

My name is Barbara Tabacco and I am a Polio Survivor. I contracted polio in September of 1946, back when everyone worried every summer about the possibility of their children getting this dread disease. That was then.

Since the development of the Salk vaccine in 1954 many people have become complacent, thinking there is no longer any danger of becoming a Polio victim and some are wrongly ignoring the need to be vaccinated.

I consider myself one of the lucky ones who could walk again and live a pretty normal life, but friends of mine, some of whom I met in the hospital, never walked again. If these people were asked today about the need for continuing education and awareness of the need to be vaccinated for Polio what would be their answer? A resounding YES!

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